

Living

11 DEC 57

Yeovil Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED



31st DECEMBER, 1956

YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL


ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health	:	P. Power Fox, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	:	Charles A. Wilson, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	:	Brynmor Morris, M.A.P.H.I. S. R. Baylis, M.A.P.H.I. Douglas N. Sibley, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Assistant Housing Inspector	:	S. R. Barham
Assistant Housing Manager	:	Mrs. D. K. Trow

---oooOooo---



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30248358>

TO THE
CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

---oooOooo---

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1956.

The health of the community has been satisfactory, the number of infectious diseases notified being considerably lower, 136 as compared with 490 for the previous year. There were eight cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified; in general, the disease was of a mild nature, but there was one death.

The Standardised Death Rate was 9.5, which is a decrease on the previous year, which was 10.2. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

It will be noted from the table showing age at death, that the majority of deaths occurred in people over the age of 70, 158 deaths occurring 70 years and over, out of the total number of deaths, 228.

The Birth Rate dropped from 16.4 for the year 1955 to 14.8, which is below that of England and Wales, namely, 15.7.

FLUORIDATION

As the Council are aware, the most recent advance in the prevention of dental diseases amongst children and young adults is the fluoridation of water supplies.

It is known that with children and young adults living in areas where the fluorine content of the water is one part per million, the incidence of caries, i.e. disease of the teeth, is much less than as compared with other communities living in areas where the fluorine content of the water is less than one part per million. Research into the possible harmful effects of fluoridation has been continuous, yet no definite evidence has been forthcoming that the continued consumption of fluoride at a level of about one part per million, is in any way harmful to health.

Artificial fluoridation of water supplies, i.e., the addition of fluoride to water where the natural fluorine content is less than one part per million, has been carried out extensively in the United States, and in the "American Journal of Public Health", October, 1956, it is stated that there are now 1,232 communities, with a total population of 25,564,000, where steps have been taken to ensure that the water supply has at least one part per million of fluorine. In a ten years study of Marshal, Texas, whose water supply has been fluoridated for that period, it has been found that there is a 54% reduction in tooth decay among children from seven to fifteen years of age. Ten years ago the average eight year old had 3.04 decayed teeth; today he has 0.6. A survey

in Madison, Wisconsin, following five years of fluoridation indicates a 20% increase in the number of kindergarten children having no caries, and a reduction of 45% in the number of teeth decayed, indicated for extraction, and filled deciduous.

As yet, fluoridation has not received the recognition it deserves in this country, though fluoridation is now being carried out in certain parts of England, Scotland and Wales. Unfortunately, despite the overwhelming evidence based on the United States statistics, it would appear that general fluoridation of water supplies in this country must await the results of studies at present being carried out in this country. I was so impressed by the value of fluoridation, that with the consent of the Public Health Committee of the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District Councils, I took up the matter with the Ministry of Health. Their officials were extremely helpful, and visited the Yeovil area to inspect the water supplies of both Yeovil Borough and Yeovil rural district. Unfortunately, though the Yeovil rural district system of water supply lends itself to fluoridation, the Yeovil Borough system does not, and the Ministry considered that the Yeovil area would not be a suitable area for the study to be carried out, unless both areas could be included.

CARE OF THE AGED

An important factor in the health of the community is the increasing longevity of the population. This increase in longevity has inevitably created a great problem in providing for old people. At present, various authorities are concerned, i.e., the local authority may help in the problem by providing more suitable housing accommodation, i.e., flats, bungalows or small houses, the Local Health Authority, by providing Part 3 accommodation, and the Regional Hospital Board by providing hospital accommodation for the aged sick, who in general require a much longer stay in hospital than a normal sick person.

Unfortunately, all these measures involve expenditure of public money, and failure of any one of these authorities to provide adequate accommodation, in order to save expenditure, throws an added strain on the other authorities concerned, and I do not think that efficient and economic provision will be made until one authority has the sole responsibility for the care of the aged and chronic sick. In previous years, I have expressed the view that to obtain the maximum use of hospital beds, the services of a qualified Geriatrician, i.e., a Specialist in diseases of the aged, is essential, in order that the optimum use of hospital beds can be made.

In the past twelve months, a system has been established, whereby the Health Visitors' visit the homes of the old and chronic sick, where application has been made for their admission to a chronic sick hospital, and completed forms have been forwarded to the Secretary of the Hospital Management Committee, with recommendations as to whether admission is one of urgency or not. These enquiries, are, I think, of some value in helping to determine the priority for admission, but do not, and cannot, give a complete picture, and I am convinced that the only satisfactory method would be for a Geriatrician, appointed to this area, to visit patients whose admission is sought to a chronic sick hospital on medical grounds, in their own homes. By this method, the Specialist responsible for the treatment of the old and chronic sick would be able to determine the type of hospital to which the patient should be admitted, or whether hospital admission would serve any useful purpose, and in this way, the optimum maximum use would be obtained of the present hospital beds.

MATERNAL SURVEY

A survey was carried out amongst mothers who were confined during the year 1956 (page 15). In order that sufficient data should be available, the survey includes mothers living in the Yeovil Borough, as well as the Yeovil rural district. This survey is being continued during 1957.

I have the pleasure in again recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Public Health Committee, and from the Members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1956

Area (in acres)	53,495
Rateable Value (31st March, 1957)	£196,909
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in year ending 31st March, 1957	£794. 11s. 9d.
No. of inhabited houses (31st March, 1957)	7,102
Population	23,970

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Population	23,700	23,970
No. of births	390	356
Birth Rate per 1,000	16.4	14.8
No. of Deaths	242	228
Death Rate per 1,000	10.2	9.5
Infantile Mortality	23.07	25.2
Phthisis Death Rate ... .. .	.2	.08

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Yeovil Rural District, comprising an area of 53,495 acres, is situated in the South-East area of the County of Somerset and is composed of 31 Rural Parishes.

The Area in general is not very much above sea level; the greatest point of elevation being Ham Hill, 426 feet above sea level.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply during the year has been satisfactory, the impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham being completed in early December, 1955. The capacity of the reservoir is 575 million gallons, with an estimated net yield of 2.4 million gallons per day. Detailed information regarding bacteriological and chemical analyses are included in the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog or mist.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year 1956 as recorded at the Sutton Bingham Reservoir was 30.12.

OCCUPATION

The main industry of the District is agriculture, which is chiefly of a dairying and grazing nature. In addition, the manufacture of gloves is an important industry, glove factories being located at Martock, Stoke-sub-Hamdon and at Tintinhull, in addition to the glove making which is carried out in the homes. A considerable proportion of people resident in the Rural District are employed in the Yeovil Borough.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services are mainly situated in the Yeovil Borough. The South Petherton Hospital, which deals with infectious diseases, is situated in the Rural District. The Hospital Services are administered

by the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are

- (1) The Yeovil and District Hospital - an acute general hospital.
- (2) Summerlands Hospital - mainly used as a Geriatric hospital.
- (3) Yeovil Maternity Hospital (Crossways) - 14 beds.
- (4) Balidon Maternity Hospital - a General Practitioners Unit - 17 beds.

The Yeovil Hospital consists of 84 beds, of which 6 are private, the number of in-patients treated was 2,554 and the number of new out-patients 4,463. The number of X-ray examinations carried out was 20,024. In considering these figures, it must be borne in mind that the area which the hospital now serves has considerably increased. Despite the valuable services which the hospitals carry out, it cannot be stated that the present hospital buildings and equipment are adequate for the present and potential requirements of the Borough and surrounding district. The matter is under review by the responsible authorities.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are treated at the South Petherton Hospital (50 beds). In general, the Cubicle Block (10 beds) is only required, and the other 40 beds are utilized for post-operative cases, so relieving the strain on the Yeovil Hospital and for General Practitioner patients and semi-chronic sick.

TUBERCULOSIS

A Chest Clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Sanatoria at Quantock and Taunton.

CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (97 beds), which is situated in the Borough, is the largest hospital in the area used for this purpose. This hospital was originally a Poor Law Institute built in 1837, and the layout etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Further, there is a constant shortage of nursing staff, but despite these handicaps, valuable work is carried out by the staff of the hospital.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A small laboratory is located at the Yeovil Hospital. A Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analyses for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluent are also carried out.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is a responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The Ambulance Control Office is located at the Summerlands Hospital. The ambulances and the larger type of vehicles for sitting cases are in radio communication with the control office. A daily 24 hour service is maintained.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfers to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however,

the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life, and industrial areas in general have a bigger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of our district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General and applied to the "crude" birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales, or with rates of other districts.

BIRTHS

(a) <u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>				<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
		Male	Female	Total	Total
Legitimate	..	170	177	347	386
Illegitimate	..	5	4	9	4
Total	..	175	181	356	390
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population				15.8	17.5
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population				14.8	16.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales				15.7	15.0
(b) <u>STILL BIRTHS</u>				<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
		Male	Female	Total	Total
Legitimate	..	3	1	4	9
Illegitimate	..	-	-	-	2
Total	..	3	1	4	11
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births				11.2	27.1
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales ..				23.0	23.1

DEATHS

				<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
		Male	Female	Total	Total
Total Deaths		111	117	228	242
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population ..				10.5	10.4
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ..				9.5	10.2
Death Rate for England & Wales				11.7	11.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis ..	..	..	..	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes ..	..	..	..	Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY

				<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	..	..		9	9
Deaths among Legitimate infants ..	..	..		9	9
Deaths among Illegitimate infants	..	..		-	-

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 live births ..	25.2	23.07
Death Rate per 1,000 legitimate births	25.9	23.3
Death Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	-	-
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	40	31
Deaths from Heart Disease(all ages)	102	76
Deaths from Phthisis(all ages).. ..	2	2

BIRTHS

The total number of births was 356, 175 male and 181 female. Of these 9 were illegitimate, 5 males and 4 females. The Table below shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

BIRTH RATES

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
20.8	21.7	17.3	19.9	15.77	15.00	14.72	14.3	16.3	16.4	14.8

DEATHS

There was a decrease in the total number of deaths, 228 in 1956, as compared with 242 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 9.5, as compared with 10.2 for the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7. The following Table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 111 deaths, 97 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 42 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the females, out of the total of 117 deaths, 102 were 65 years and over, 76 were 75 years and over.

AGES AT DEATH

1956

Ages at Death in years	Males	Females	Total
Under 1	5	4	9
1	-	-	-
5	1	-	1
15	-	-	-
25	2	1	3
45	6	10	16
65	30	11	41
Total under 70	44	26	70
70	25	15	40
75	14	15	29
80	14	16	30
85	10	25	35
90	2	16	18
95	2	4	6
Over 100	-	-	-
Total over 70	67	91	158
Totals	111	117	228

The Crude Death Rate for the past ten years is as follows:-

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
11.7	13.42	10.3	11.66	11.26	10.48	10.13	7.6	9.34	10.2	9.5

The following Table shows the causes of death and the sex distribution.

	1956	
	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	4	-
" " Lung, bronchus	6	1
" " Breast	-	5
" " Uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	10	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	9	23
Coronary disease angina	20	12
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
Other heart diseases	15	20
Other circulatory disease	9	9
Influenza	1	3
Pneumonia	4	2
Bronchitis	4	3
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	-
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
Congenital malformations	-	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	10	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-
All other accidents	4	4
	111	117

CANCER

The number of deaths due to Cancer (all forms) was 40. The Table as set out below shows the incidence of Cancer for previous years.

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
39	39	28	51	37	46	32	30	35	31	40

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION:

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Yeovil Rural District	2.1	1.9	1.4	2.7	1.7	1.92	1.33	1.22	1.50	1.3	1.6
County of Somerset.	1.9	2.07	1.9	1.9	1.89	2.00	1.98	1.84	2.06	2.045	1.89
England and Wales	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.94	1.96	1.99	1.99	2.035	2.056	2.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 9, as compared with 9 for the year 1955. The rate per thousand of live births was 25.2, as compared with England and Wales - 23.8.

The following Table shows the number of deaths and the Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of Deaths	6	8	14	7	12	9	7	9	9	9
Rate per 1,000 live births in Rural District	14.76	24.7	37.4	22.8	36.44	27.19	21.08	25.2	23.07	25.2
Rate per 1,000 live births in England & Wales	41	34	32	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.5	25.5	24.9	23.8

CAUSES OF DEATH

Intercranial Haemorrhage	..	..	1
Prematurity	..	..	5
Congenital Heart Disease	..	..	1
Forceps Delivery	..	..	1
Shock following accidental multiple injuries	..	..	1
			9

AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours 3	Under 1 week 8	1 month or under -	Under 1 year 9
---------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	-------------------

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following Table sets out the details of infectious diseases during the year and also the figures for the previous year.

Disease					Cases Notified	
					1956	1955
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	8	9
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	14	6
Measles	..	..	..	..	67	446
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	7	12
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	35	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	4	1
Malaria	..	..	..	..	1	-
Total ..					136	484

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

The number of cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified was 8 as compared with 9 for the previous year.

There is a close liaison between the Orthopaedic Service and South Petherton Hospital, and all cases before they are discharged home, or transferred to an Orthopaedic Hospital, are examined by an Orthopaedic Surgeon. A follow-up service exists whereby all children are subsequently seen at the Orthopaedic Clinics held at Yeovil Hospital, and in 1951 this service was extended so as to include hydrotherapy exercises at the Yeovil Borough Swimming Baths. The service is now well established.

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNIZATION

In general, all infants immunized against Diphtheria are also immunized against Whooping Cough. Provision is made for the occasional infant, who for certain medical reasons, immunization against Whooping Cough is not indicated, or because the parents do not wish the combined course of injections, for immunization against Diphtheria only to be carried out.

The number of infants under the age of 12 months immunized, was 270, the number under the age of 5 years was 320, and the total number of children under the age of 14 years was 400. The number of births for the year 1955 was 390, so that the percentage of infants immunized was 69.2%. This figure should be higher, 75 $\frac{1}{3}$ is the target to be aimed for, but as 50 children between the ages of 1 and 2 years were also immunized, the discrepancy is not quite so marked as would appear at first sight, as the percentage of children immunized under the age of 2 years is 82%. In addition, 236 children of school age received reinforcement doses.

VACCINATION

The number of primary vaccinations carried out was 306, of which 272 were for infants under the age of 1 year. In addition, 33 re-vaccinations were carried out. It is pleasant to note that despite other Rural Authorities in the County having larger populations, that as regards the number of primary vaccinations and also combined primary and re-vaccinations, the Yeovil Rural figures are the highest.

The number of births for the preceding year was 390, so that the number of infants vaccinated was 69.7%. This figure is good as compared with England and Wales, and shows an increase of 5.4% as compared with 1955.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 8, Non-Pulmonary 5. There were 2 deaths recorded as due to Pulmonary and none for Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
No. of cases notified Pulmonary ..	8	9	15	14	19	15	12	21	12	8
No. of cases notified Non-Pulmonary	5	6	5	1	8	4	1	2	4	5
No. of deaths Pulmonary	2	2	-	4	3	1	2	6	6	-
No. of deaths Non-Pulmonary ..	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	-
Death rate of respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	0.08	0.08	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.04	0.09	0.32	0.33	0.0

TUBERCULOSIS

Age			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	..	..	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
10	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	..	..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20	..	..	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	..	..	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35	..	..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	..	..	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	..	..	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total	..	..	2	6	2	3	1	1	-	-

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

During the year the Mass Radiography Unit made 5 visits to Yeovil. A total of 3,490 adults were examined, of whom 2 were found to have active Tuberculosis. A further 21 were found to have inactive Tuberculosis, and 54 were found to have other abnormalities of the chest. Among the people examined, a considerable percentage are resident in the Yeovil Rural District.

No. of examinations carried out			No. of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis diagnosed.	
			Active	Inactive
1948	..	.. 4,260	9	52
1949	..	.. 2,298	13	31
1950	..	.. 2,316	4	41
1951	..	.. 3,015	8	34
1952	..	.. 4,191	9	37
1953	..	.. 4,460	12	22
1954	..	.. 4,561	6	32
1955	..	.. 4,109	1	24
1956	..	.. 3,490	2	75

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

The establishment and maintenance of the Welfare Clinics are a direct responsibility of the Somerset County Council and during recent years the number of such clinics in the Yeovil Rural District has been increased to 7. At each clinic, other than the Houndstone Camp Clinic, a doctor engaged by the Somerset County Council attends regularly, also a District Nurse. Facilities are available for the purchase of Infant Welfare Foods, including National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, etc., and certain proprietary dried milk preparations, which are sold at the clinics at special prices. Apart from other considerations, the clinics have an important educational value. Associated with each clinic is a Voluntary Committee, the value of whose services it would be difficult to over emphasize. The W.V.S. assist considerably by distributing the Foods from the Public Health Centre, Preston Road, Yeovil, to the individual clinics. The following Table sets out the attendances, etc., at the various clinics.

	Mar- tock	Stoke- under- Ham	South Pether- ton	West Coker	Hound- stone	Wrax- hill Road	Ilch- ester	Total
No. of children who attended for the first time	45	19	47	22	29	35	103	300
No. of children who attended during the year	100	105	90	67	61	77	159	659
Total attend- ances of child- ren during the year ...	496	549	441	323	235	398	819	3,261
Average attend- ance of child- ren per session	41	23	18	19	20	33	36	190
Total No. of children exam- ined by doctor	40	36	59	50	-	44	115	344
No. of sessions with medical officer ...	11	12	12	17	-	12	23	87
Total No. of sessions ...	12	23	24	17	12	12	23	123
No. of individual mothers who attended ...	90	78	110	50	57	60	148	593

BIRTHS

Live Births ..	Legitimate	347	Illegitimate	9	Total	356
Still Births ..	"	4	"	-	"	4
INFANT DEATHS						
Number ..	Legitimate	9	Illegitimate	-	Total	9

BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

This clinic was commenced in 1947 and was, I think, the first local authority clinic in Somerset. It is held at the Preston Road Clinic, Yeovil. Since its inception, 3,710 individual pregnant women have been examined, 650 examinations being carried out in 1956. The areas from which the patients are drawn, are, as would be expected, mainly the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. Patients are referred by the practitioner or midwife, without previous appointment. A card showing the

patient's blood group, and whether she is Rh. Positive or Rh. Negative, is forwarded to her direct, together with a covering letter emphasizing the importance of her retaining the card in case she ever requires a blood transfusion for any purpose. A report giving further information, including percentage of haemoglobin and W.R. test is forwarded to the private doctor, and a copy of this report is also forwarded to the midwife or Matron of the Maternity Home, depending on where the patient is having her confinement. Previously, similar information was forwarded to Yeovil Hospital in case the patient was admitted there for any reason and required a blood transfusion, but a copy is now forwarded direct by the Laboratory doing the tests.

A record of all blood tests is also kept at the Public Health Department. In the case of second or subsequent pregnancies of Rh. Negative women, as the test is normally carried out early in pregnancy, a further test is carried out 6 to 8 weeks before the expected date of confinement, to exclude antibodies. If antibodies are found to be present, and if in sufficient quantities to threaten the welfare of the baby, when born, arrangements are made for the baby to be born either at Bristol or Taunton so that the blood transfusion of the baby can be carried out if necessary. The number of babies whose life has been saved by this procedure now runs into double figures and is a source of considerable gratification.

MATERNITY SURVEY

During the past twelve months a survey has been carried out, based on women whose babies were born during the year 1956. An analysis of these figures shows that 30.9% of expectant mothers had their confinement at home, the other 69% being confined in maternity units. Private practitioners were present at 40.3% of the confinements.

The number of women who had had a blood test, either for the pregnancy under review, or a previous pregnancy, was 97.8%. This figure is extremely high, and is, I think, very satisfactory. The percentage of women who had a routine chest X-ray examination during pregnancy was 51.5%.

The percentage of expectant mothers who had dental treatment was 52.6%. This figure is an improvement on the previous year, but it is thought that all women should be dentally examined during pregnancy, and if necessary, receive the appropriate dental treatment. The total number of confinements reviewed was 694, of whom 37.4% were primiparae, i.e., first pregnancies, and 62.6% were multiparae, i.e., two or more pregnancies.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service continues to render excellent assistance and the following Table indicates the scope of its activities.

Following alterations to the Preston Road Clinic the office accommodation for the local organising staff has been moved to the buildings adjacent to the clinic, and this has made for still closer liaison between the Home Help Service and the Public Health Staff, especially Health Visitors. The new location of the offices are also much more convenient for the public.

Number of cases who received help in 1956:-

<u>Type of Case</u>					<u>Yeovil Rural District</u>
Maternity	..	..	..	..	28
Old Age and Infirmary	..	..	..	..	30
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	1
Chronic Illness	..	..	..	..	3
Emergency Illness	..	..	..	..	11
Families of motherless children	..	..	..	..	-
Total					78

A number of old age and chronic sick cases have received help for two or three years.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The school health service provides for remedial and preventive treatment, and consists of:-

- (a) Routine and special medical inspections.
- (b) Minor Ailments treatment.
- (c) Cleanliness inspections of children by Health Visitors.
- (d) Dental Inspection and treatment.
- (e) A much expanded scheme; in co-operation with the Hospital services, for the treatment of defects of vision and of ear, nose and throat.

In addition the following services are also provided:-

- (f) Routine Mass Radiography of all children of school leaving age. Special examinations of children, irrespective of age, who have been thought to have been exposed to a particular risk of tuberculous infection have been carried out, with the co-operation of the Mass Radiography Service.
- (g) Routine Colour Vision testing of children.
- (h) Routine and special testing of children's hearing acuity, using the Gramophone Audiometer.
- (i) Speech Therapy.
- (j) Ultra Violet Light clinics for debilitated children.
- (k) Routine immunisation of children against diphtheria. This consists mainly of reinforcement inoculations of children already immunised, but children "missed" in infancy are immunised.
- (l) Breathing Exercises Clinic.

In addition to the above, arrangements exist for a special session at the Yeovil Borough Swimming Baths for the rehabilitation of certain types of physically handicapped children. A large proportion of these pupils are those who have had Anterior Poliomyelitis with a residual physical defect. The value of these scheme is now well established and much credit is due to the work carried out by the local detachment of the British Red Cross.

The Breathing Exercises Clinic was established in 1950, and is intended mainly for children who have Asthma, but also for other children with a history of chest trouble and for whom breathing exercises are valuable. The number of children initially enrolled was 6; the number on the roll in December, 1956, was 27. The total number of attendances in the year was 225, and since the inception of the scheme 91 children have been or are being treated. There is a marked improvement physically of children attending regularly, as shown by the increase in chest expansion and also by clinical examination of the chest. In addition, the children develop a sense of self confidence as they learn how to combat an impending attack of asthma, and there is a marked improvement of physique and general posture.

The importance of asthma as a disease is frequently overlooked: about 3,000 deaths a year are ascribed to asthma, in England and Wales. In

terms of capacity, it is stated that asthma accounts for 206 out of every 10,000 of incapacity for all causes. By comparison, the figure for tuberculosis is 108, and for gastric and duodenal ulcer together 224. It will be appreciated, therefore, that any measure to help the asthmatic child is of importance, and it is recognised that the treatment of asthma in childhood is to a considerable extent truly preventive medicine. The main credit for the success of the clinic is due to the Health Visitors.

In the final paragraph of his Report for the years 1952 and 1953, Sir John Charles, M.D., F.R.C.P.; D.P.H., Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education, states: "Change is a characteristic of all living things and if there is vitality in the school health service, it will adapt itself to changing circumstances." It is hoped that the foregoing remarks regarding the school health service in the South-East Somerset (Yeovil) Divisional Area are evidence that the service is endeavouring to cope with the present day problems.

SECTION C
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) WATER SUPPLIES

The treatment works and pumping station at the Sutton Bingham Reservoir were in operation throughout the year, providing a supply for most of the population of the Rural District and a bulk supply to Yeovil Corporation.

Number of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination106
Number of samples reported Satisfactory106
Number of samples reported UnsatisfactoryNIL

Number of samples taken for Chemical Examination..... 18
Number of samples reported Satisfactory..... 18
Number of samples reported Unsatisfactory.....NIL

Rainfall recorded during year at Sutton Bingham Reservoir
Rainfall Station.....30.12 ins.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

MUDFORD - Scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal completed

STOKE-UNDER-HAM - Extension of sewer to Ham Hill completed

(3) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse is carried out periodically in all parishes.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage.....308
Inspections for Nuisances.....162
Informal Notices served and complied with..... 48
Drainage Tests and Inspections.....608
Houses Disinfected..... 12

Inspections of Water Supplies.....656
Slaughterhouse Inspections.....312

Shops and Offices - It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934

Smoke Abatement - It was not found necessary to take any action

SECTION D

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts).....	1,186
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose.....	1,653
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reg. 1925 and 1932.....	68
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose.....	80
(c)	Number of houses in which no action necessary.....	NIL
3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human occupation.....	15
4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human occupation.....	60

HOUSING ACTION

a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or their officers.....	58
b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	NIL

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING YEAR

(Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936)

1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	NIL
2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
a)	By Owners.....	NIL
b)	By Local Authority in default of owners.....	NIL

Proceedings under Public Health Acts

1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	6
2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
a)	By Owners.....	6
b)	By Local Authority.. ..	NIL

Proceedings under Section 11, 13 and 26
of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... | 4 |
| 2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... | NIL |
| 3) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Undertaking was given not to let..... | NIL |

Proceedings under Section 12 of the
Housing Act, 1936

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... | NIL |
| 2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenements or rooms having been made fit..... | NIL |

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - OVERCROWDING

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---|-----|
| a) | i | Number of dwelling overcrowded at the end of the year <u>(EST)</u> | 50 |
| | ii | Number of families dwelling therein <u>(EST)</u> | 104 |
| | iii | Number of people dwelling therein <u>(EST)</u> | 366 |
| b) | | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... | 6 |
| c) | i | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... | 14 |
| | ii | Number of persons concerned in such cases..... | 48 |
| d) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... | NIL |

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD PREMISES

The following shows the number of food premises etc., by type of business in the district:-

Cafes etc.	8
General Stores.....	60
Bakers	8
Butchers	13

Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Ice-cream	67
Preserved Foods	15
Number of Registered Dairies	5
Number of Inspections of Food Premises	234
Number of Private Slaughterhouses licensed	3
Number operating	3

BYELAWS (under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Byelaws

ADULTERATION

The Council is not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1429	4298	4366	7093	391	NIL
Number inspected	1429	4298	4366	7093	391	---
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	4	7	4	---
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	246	2856	21	3856	43	---
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.5	68	.49	55	1.1	---
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	29	1	-	-	---
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	75	878	6	-	24	---
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.26	20.4	.016	-	7.1	---
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	NIL	NIL	NIL	---
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	-	NIL	NIL	NIL	---
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	---
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	5134	23566	63	-	182	---
(b) Cysticercosis	130	-	-	-	-	---
(c) Other	1954	42840	280	11848	320	---
Total (in lbs.) condemned	7218	66406	343	11848	502	---

YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Yeovil Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1956.

HOUSING

The total number of new houses completed during the year (174) reflects the reduction in the Council's building programme. The ever increasing cost of building work and the increase in the rate of interest on borrowed money will, no doubt, cause a further reduction in the number of new houses built in the district.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949. This is most encouraging, as many of the houses so dealt with were unfit houses.

1956 Building Programme

a) BY THE COUNCIL

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Permanent houses completed during the year..... | 24 |
| 2. | Permanent houses under construction at 31.12.56. | 12 |

b) BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | Permanent houses completed during the year..... | 138 |
| 2. | Permanent houses under construction at 31.12.56. | 76 |

c) BY OTHER AUTHORITIES (Yeovil Corporation,
Royal Navy and Army)

Permanent houses completed during the year 12

Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants

36 applications, involving 41 houses, were received and approved during the year.

Total cost of Improvement Works	£31,364.	9.	6d.
Total Value of Grants Approved	£12,725.	0.	0d.

P L A N S

Total Number of Plans received during the year322

A. BUILDING BYELAWS

Number of plans approved245

Number disapproved 2

Number not requiring approval under the byelaws.. 75

322

(Number of inspections carried out
in connection with the building byelaws1,470)

B. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

Number of plans and applications for development
submitted and passed to the Planning Authority
with the Council's observations221

Number not requiring planning permission101

322

WATER SUPPLY

1) The impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham was in operation for the whole of the year, providing the supply for over 90% of the population of the Rural District and a substantial bulk supply to Yeovil Borough. The quality of the water after treatment at the Treatment Works is very satisfactory.

The total quantity of water drawn from the reservoir during the year was 478½ million gallons and the maximum daily demand was 1,578,570 gallons. On the completion of the remainder of the trunk mains, the whole of the district will be assured of a good and reliable water supply for a considerable number of years.

- 2) The trunk main from Odcombe to Rixon, Stoke-sub-Hamdon was completed.
- 3) The renewal of the 3" main from Long Load to Stapleton, Martock, was almost completed.
- 4) The laying of the trunk main from Coker Hill to North Perrott was commenced.

106 samples of water from public and private supplies were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination, as follows:-

		<u>Public Supplies</u>	<u>Private Supplies</u>
Number of samples taken	..	101	5
Reported Satisfactory	..	101	5
Reported Unsatisfactory	..	NIL	NIL

18 samples from public supplies were submitted for chemical examination. All were reported satisfactory.

The following is a summary of the position at the end of the year regarding houses supplied with water:-

Public Supply direct into houses	5,819 houses
Public Supply by standpipes	995
Private Piped Supplies (supplying more than 3 houses)	82
Without a piped supply (or where the supply is for 3, or fewer, houses	159
	<hr/>
TOTAL	7,055 houses
	<hr/>

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

MUDFORD	Scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal was completed.
STOKE-UNDER-HAM	Extension of sewer to Ham Hill completed.
MARTOCK) MONTACUTE) STOKE-UNDER-HAM)	Proposed scheme of trunk sewers and combined disposal works was approved, but the Council were unable to obtain a starting date.
ASH,) TINTINHULL)	A joint scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal was in course of preparation.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Three private slaughterhouses were licensed and operating during the year.

A total of 17,577 animals was slaughtered and inspected during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

These are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

OUTWORKERS (Factories Act, 1937, Section 110)

Number of Outworkers at 31st August, 1956 : 1,066

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

The amounts of salvageable materials sold during the year and the price realised are as follows:-

METALS 14 tons 6 cwts. £82. 0. 7d.

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operators during the year:-

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agric- ultural	All other including Business & Industrial	TOTAL
Number of inspections during year, as result of:-					
a) Notification	-	192	NIL	9	201
b) Survey under the Act	66	6,227	423	343	7,059
Number of Properties found to be infested:-					
a) Major	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
b) Minor	47	223	8	9	287
Number of Infested Prop- erties treated by the Council's Operators:-	47	223	NIL	9	279
Number of Informal Notices served:-	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Number of Infestations treated by occupiers after service of Informal Notices:-	NIL	NIL	8	NIL	8

It was not found necessary to take any formal action under the provisions of the PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES A WILSON.

Senior Public Health Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods,
Fellow of the Association of
Public Health Inspectors,
Member of the Royal Society of Health

